

What is claim d is:

1. A method for scoring an answer page containing an answer to an open-ended question, the method comprising the steps of:

viewing a first visual image of a first portion of an answer page, the first portion comprising an answer space in which an answer to an open-ended question is expected to reside;

if the first portion of the answer page contains a complete answer, electronically scoring the answer;

if the first portion of the answer page does not encompass a complete answer, accessing and viewing a second visual image of a second portion of the answer page, the second portion comprising a sector of the answer page outside the answer space, and electronically scoring the answer.

2. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the viewing step comprises receiving the first and the second visual image through a processor onto a display device.

3. The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
entering an electronic scoring system;
requesting to view an answer to score; and
receiving the first visual image from a queue comprising a plurality of answer page images.

4. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the electronically scoring step comprises selecting a numerical score for the answer from a score sector on a display.

5. The method recited in Claim 4, wherein the score sector comprises a score button bar displayed on a common display with the first visual image.

6. The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps, if the first and the second visual image do not encompass a complete answer, of repeating the accessing and viewing steps until substantially the entire answer page is viewed.

7. The method recited in Claim 6, wherein, if the entire answer page does not encompass a complete answer, viewing a first visual image of a second answer page to search for a complete answer.

8. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the viewing steps comprise receiving the first and the second visual image through a processor onto a display device, and the accessing step comprises electronically manipulating a scroll bar on the display device.

9. The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of, if a question occurs during the scoring step, electronically transmitting a query to a supervisor.

10. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the answer comprises an answer in verbal form.

11. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the answer comprises a geometric
5 diagram.

12. The method recited in Claim 11, further comprising the step of accessing an electronically manipulable display of a geometric tool for assessing the geometric diagram.

13. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the answer comprises a calibration
10 answer, and further comprising the steps of receiving a score and comparing the received score with a target score.

14. The method recited in Claim 13, further comprising the step of calculating a
15 reader effectiveness from the comparing step.

15. The method recited in Claim 13, further comprising the steps of calculating a time span between the first visual image viewing step and the scoring step, and comparing the time span with a target scoring time.

16. The method recited in Claim 15, further comprising the step of calculating a
20 reader efficiency from the time-span comparing step.

17. A method for delivering an answer page containing an answer to an open-ended question to a reader for scoring, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving from a storage device a visual image of an answer page containing an answer to an open-ended question;

5 formatting a first display screen comprising a first visual image of a first portion of an answer page, the first portion comprising an answer space in which an answer to an open-ended question is expected to reside;

transmitting to a reader display device the first display screen; and

10 permitting reader visual access on the display device to a second portion of the answer page at least partially outside the first portion.

18. The method recited in Claim 17, wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:

15 determining a batch comprising a plurality of answers to be scored, the plurality of answers comprising answers to a unitary test question;

fetching answer page images corresponding to the determined batch from a storage device; and

holding the fetched answer page images in a cache.

20 **19.** The method recited in Claim 18, further comprising the steps, prior to the formatting and transmitting steps, of retrieving a scoring and a display protocol for answers to the test question.

20. The method recited in Claim 19, wherein the scoring protocol comprises a numerical score range for answers to the test question.

21. The method recited in Claim 20, wherein the first visual image comprises a score selection element, and the formatting step comprises including the score selection element as dictated by the display protocol.

22. The method recited in Claim 21, wherein the score selection element comprises a score button bar.

23. The method recited in Claim 17, wherein the first display screen further comprises a score selection element.

24. The method recited in Claim 17, wherein, if the answer page does not encompass a complete answer, repeating the retrieving, formatting, transmitting, and permitting steps on a second answer page.

25. The method recited in Claim 17, wherein the first display screen further comprises an electronically manipulable scroll bar, and wherein the permitting step comprises receiving a signal indicative of a manipulation of the scroll bar and transmitting to the reader display device a second display screen comprising the second portion of the answer page corresponding to the signal.